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ABSTRACT

This educational packet contains information about Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Republic, Missouri), the site of a bitter 1861 struggle between Union and Confederate forces for control of Missouri. The packet contains the following materials: (1) Educational Group Reservation Form; (2) Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Movement Maps (six maps detailed chronologically to show troop locations and movements during the battle); (3) "The Struggle for Missouri: Lyon's Campaign and the Battle of Wilson's Creek" (an account by Leo Huff of the events and personalities that led to the battle provides necessary background for the academic activities included in the packet); (4) Outline of the Traveling Trunk Program (for classes that cannot visit the park or for those who want reinforcement, each trunk contains a collection of items suitable for demonstrations or hands-on activities); (5) Pre-Visit Activities (activities 1-4 are organized in order of increasing complexity for grades 9-12); (6) Outline of Battlefield Visit; (7) Visit Activity; (8) Post-Visit Activities (activities 5 and 6); (9) Suggested Readings (12 items); and (10) Comments and Suggestions. (BT)

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WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

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HARD TIMES/HARD WAR

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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SO 031 282

Educational Packet
Grades 9-12

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HARD TIMES/HARD WAR

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
Educational Packet
Grades 9-12

By

Kenneth Elkins

This second edition of the Educational Packet for high school students was prepared and revised by Kenneth Elkins, Jeff Patrick, and the staff of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTRODUCTION/COMMENTS

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOOL PACKET FROM WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

A. INTRODUCTION:
This packet is organized to help you make the most of your study of and visit to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Feel free to pick and choose from the provided materials depending upon your particular circumstances. To reserve a video or one of the travelling trunks or to acquire one of the other educational packets, please see the EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS REQUEST FORM in the EDUCATORS' GUIDE TO THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK.

B. CONTENTS:

1. EDUCATIONAL GROUP RESERVATION FORM.
This form is necessary if your class(es) are going to visit Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Please note the guidelines at the bottom of the sheet.

2. WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD TROOP MOVEMENT MAPS.
The six detailed maps herein chronologically show troop locations and movements during the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

3. THE STRUGGLE FOR MISSOURI: LYON'S CAMPAIGN AND THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK.
This short but detailed account by Leo Huff of the events and personalities that led to the Battle of Wilson's Creek provides the necessary background for the academic activities included in this packet. A somewhat different perspective on these events, THE BATTLE: A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK, by Kenneth Elkins, may also prove useful in completing these activities and can be found in the EDUCATORS' GUIDE.

4. OUTLINE OF THE TRAVELLING TRUNK PROGRAM.
For those teachers who cannot visit the park, or who wish to reinforce concepts learned either before or during their battlefield visit, a Travelling Trunk is available for loan. Each trunk contains a collection of reproduction items suitable for demonstrations and/or hands-on activities related to daily life for common soldiers during the Civil War. Also included are descriptions of the uses of each specific item as well as some suggested classroom activities. Please call the battlefield about reserving one of these trunks.

5. PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES.
Activities numbered one through four are organized in order of increasing complexity for grades 9-12. Beyond copying them as necessary, please feel free to adjust or expand these as appropriate to your particular classroom situation.
For your convenience, an answer sheet can be found following the Visit Activity.

6. OUTLINE OF BATTLEFIELD VISIT.
National Park Service personnel will be glad to answer any questions you might have during your visit.

7. VISIT ACTIVITY.
As with the other activities, this is optional. It might, however, allow some or all of your students to make better use of their tour of the Visitor Center.

8. POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES.
As with number five above, use Activities five and six as appropriate.

9. SUGGESTED READINGS.
If you are interested in other aspects of the Civil War, National Park Service personnel will be glad to refer you to additional written works and/or bibliographical materials.

10. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.
To help us better serve you in the future, please take a moment to complete this short form and return it to the park. Further, if you have any immediate concerns during your visit, do not hesitate to share them with National Park Service personnel.

EDUCATIONAL GROUP RESERVATION FORM

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
6424 W. Farm Road 182 • Republic, Missouri 65738 • (417) 732-2662

Date of reservation request: _____ Reservation received by: _____

Name of teacher: _____

Name of school: _____

Address of school: _____

Phone number of school: _____

CONFIRMATION FOR VISIT TO WILSON'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Grade(s): _____ # of Students: _____ # of Adults: _____

Picnic Area: Yes No Self-guided Auto Tour: Yes No

Special Needs:

_____

_____

VISIT GUIDELINES:

* The teacher(s) is(are) responsible for the conduct of their students and must remain with their students during their visit.
* The school will provide one adult for each ten students.
* The entrance fee is waived for educational groups. Please see below.
* If you need to reschedule or cancel your visit, please contact the battlefield as soon as possible.
* If you are interested in reserving a video, a grade-specific educational packet, or one of our travelling trunks before your visit to Wilson's Creek, please use the following Educational Materials Request Form.
* The staff at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is looking forward to your upcoming visit. We hope that it will be a most enjoyable and educational experience.

I have read the program guidelines listed above and agree to comply with these standards during our visit. I also request a waiver of the entrance fee for my group, as our visit to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is educational in nature.

_____ _____

Signature Date

The Struggle for Missouri: Lyon's Campaign and the Battle of Wilson's Creek

By Leo E. Huff

THE STATE IN TURMOIL

The Civil War in Missouri was truly a civil war within a war as brother fought brother and friend fought friend. The majority of the people in Missouri were pro-Union, but by a narrow margin. More military engagements were fought in Missouri than in any other state, with the exceptions of Virginia and Tennessee. (A military engagement can be a fight ranging in size from a small cavalry patrol action to a large-scale battle.)

After Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency in November 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union in December, and in the next six weeks, six more states from the lower South seceded. In February 1861, delegates from these seven states met in Montgomery, Alabama, and formed the government of the Confederate States of America. Meanwhile, Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson, an active secessionist, worked hard to carry Missouri out of the Union.

With the prospects of civil war rising throughout the nation, both North and South began preparing for the inevitable conflict, even before Lincoln's inauguration in March. Fearing seizure of the federal arsenal at St. Louis by pro-Southern state forces, the U.S. government transferred Capt. Nathaniel Lyon and his company of the 2nd U.S. Infantry from Ft. Riley, Kansas, to St. Louis to protect the arsenal. This force arrived in St. Louis in February. Also in February, a state convention elected to consider federal relations, voted 89-to-1 that Missouri had no cause to dissolve her connections with the Union.

When the legislature and the convention adjourned by the end of March, the state apparently was committed to the Union. But the extremists who rallied around Gov. Jackson demanded a belligerent policy. The surrender of Ft. Sumter in mid-April gave the expected impulse to the secession movement, and Gov. Jackson met Lincoln's call for troops to put down the insurrection with an insulting refusal.

The secessionists had designs on the 60,000 muskets, powder and cannon in the St. Louis arsenal, which stood on low ground near the river and was open to attack. While his superior, Gen. William Harney, was absent, Lyon, with presidential approval, secretly arranged with Gov. Yates of Illinois to send militia across the river on the night of April 25. Lyon had everything in readiness and threw open the arsenal gates as the militia swarmed ashore. Most of the arms and ammunition were then hurriedly loaded on a steamboat and taken to Alton, out of reach of the secessionists. Lyon now fortified the arsenal grounds and strengthened the loyal St. Louis Home Guard.

BLOODSHED IN ST. LOUIS

Most of the aristocratic St. Louis families sympathized with the Confederacy, and many of them were members of the Missouri State Militia. In early May, Gov. Jackson ordered these men, who were commanded by Gen. D. M. Frost, to muster for a few days of "training." About 700 men responded to the call and established Camp Jackson, in honor of Gov. Jackson, on the western edge of St. Louis. Jackson hoped that the troops at the camp might eventually be used to capture the arsenal, and arranged to have Confederate arms and ammunition smuggled into the camp.

Lyon, in his puritanical zeal and hatred of slavery, prepared to attack Camp Jackson, which he viewed as a great menace. On May 10, while his superior was again absent, Lyon surrounded Camp Jackson with several thousand loyal troops and made the militia prisoners. The Northern press now hailed Lyon as a hero

whose resolute action had saved the state for the Union. But this day was one of the blackest in St. Louis history. Instead of paroling the disarmed militia, Lyon marched the prisoners through the streets of St. Louis back to the arsenal. Excited and resentful Southern sympathizers poured into the streets and lined the route. Insults and then stones, bricks, and other objects were hurled at the Union soldiers guarding the prisoners. Finally, shots were fired at the Union column, killing and wounding several soldiers. The troops fired back indiscriminately and 28 people were killed. Blood was shed in the streets, and Missouri was now given over to four years of violence and cruel intersectional warfare.

In response to the incident at Camp Jackson, the state legislature passed a bill creating the pro-Confederate State Guard. Gov. Jackson acted with energy to throw Missouri into the Confederacy, and appointed former governor Sterling Price as major general in command of the pro-secessionist State Guard. Secessionist forces seemed to dominate most of the state outside of St. Louis, and some of them in irregular bands drove Union men from their homes and initiated guerrilla activities which in time seemed likely to make one-half of Missouri a desert.

GENERAL LYON IN COMMAND

Meanwhile, Gen. Harney returned to St. Louis and did his best to restore public calm and confidence with moderate policies. Lyon and Frank Blair, Jr., a prominent St. Louis politician and a staunch Unionist, were outraged at Harney's moderate course and tried to discredit him. During May, Blair began pulling strings in Washington for Harney's removal and the appointment of Lyon in his place. The powerful Blair family had considerable influence in Washington, and Frank's brother, Montgomery Blair, was Lincoln's postmaster general. Finally, Lincoln yielded to pressure and sent Frank Blair an order for Harney's removal in the event of an extreme emergency. On May 31, Harney was dismissed and Lyon was appointed a brigadier general.

Blair and Lyon now took steps to disrupt the truce that Harney had worked out with Price, by which the state would not arm further.

On June 11, Blair and Lyon held a conference with Price and Gov. Jackson in St. Louis. Both sides made demands which the other would not meet. Lyon closed the meeting by summarily ordering Jackson and Price outside his lines. They immediately left the city, Jackson returning to Jefferson City and Price into the field to rally his troops.

THE FIRST BATTLE IN MISSOURI AT BOONVILLE

Lyon, with about 2,000 men on steamboats, moved up the river to Jefferson City. Gov. Jackson and his sympathizers evacuated the capital on June 14, whereupon Lyon moved in the next day. Then Lyon followed Jackson's small force to Boonville, where on June 17 the first of nearly 1,100 skirmishes in Missouri took place, roughly one-sixth of the entire number to be fought in the war.

By putting the governor and the pro-Southern portion of the legislature to flight, Lyon forced the secessionists to operate without a base, money, or legal footing. At the same time, Lyon had given Missouri Unionists time to set up a new state government that would cooperate with Washington, and on July 31, pro-Union Hamilton Gamble was elected governor by a state convention. On the other hand, Lyon had now destroyed any possibility of compromise. No longer could Missourians hope to settle their differences at the conference table. Lyon had forced everyone to take sides. Thanks to Lyon and his secessionist counterpart, Gov. Jackson, who was equally stubborn, bloody and bitter civil war had begun in Missouri.

SIGEL'S DEFEAT AT CARTHAGE

After the Battle of Boonville, the state troops under Col. J. S. Marmaduke and Gov. Jackson retreated southward toward Cowskin Prairie in the southwest corner of the state where Gen. Price was gathering other State

Guard forces. Meanwhile, before leaving St. Louis, Lyon had ordered U.S. Army Capt. and recently-elected Missouri Brig. Gen. Thomas Sweeny to lead a column of troops to the southwest part of the state to block any move south by Missouri State Guard forces. Col. Franz Sigel, with two Missouri volunteer infantry regiments and an artillery battery, led the column and arrived in Springfield on June 24. A few days later, on July 1, Sweeny arrived in Springfield with 1,500 troops.

When Sigel received news of the retreat of the governor's force from Boonville, he determined to intercept it and prevent it from forming a juncture with the other forces in the southwest, thus allowing Lyon, who was slowly following Jackson, to attack the rear. Sigel immediately set out along the Mt. Vernon road to Carthage, 65 miles to the west, with the 3rd and 5th Regiments of Missouri Volunteers, accompanied by a company of regulars and the eight pieces of Backoff's Missouri Light Artillery Battalion. Meanwhile, on July 3, Lyon with about 2,000, left Boonville in pursuit of the governor.

Before Lyon could render any assistance, Sigel was defeated at Carthage on July 5 by the State Guards under Gov. Jackson, and forced to fall back to Mt. Vernon and then Springfield. By this time, Lyon had been reinforced by Maj. S. D. Sturgis arriving from Kansas City with a 1,600-man brigade consisting of regular cavalry and infantry troops, and Kansas City volunteers. Hearing of Sigel's defeat, Lyon began a forced march and arrived in Springfield on July 13, while Gov. Jackson continued south and joined Price on Cowskin Prairie.

THE OPPOSING ARMIES ASSEMBLE

Gen. Lyon, after having assumed command of all Federal troops in southwest Missouri, set about reorganizing his little army, and fired off requests to St. Louis and Washington for reinforcements and supplies. On July 20, he sent Gen. Sweeny with a 1,200-man task force consisting of artillery, cavalry, and infantry to break up a secession camp reported to be at Forsyth. In a sharp little skirmish on July 22, Sweeny scattered about 150 State Guard troops stationed in Forsyth and occupied the town for about 24 hours before returning to Springfield.

In the meantime, the Missouri secessionists were making plans to attack the Federals in Springfield. Brig. Gen. McCulloch, of Texas, commanding a brigade of Confederate troops in northwest Arkansas, had been ordered by the Confederate government to go to the aid of the Missouri secessionists. On July 25, Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, in command of the Missouri State Guard, began moving his troops from the Cowskin Prairie in McDonald County, toward Cassville. Joined by a brigade of Arkansas State troops under Brig. Gen. N. B. Pearce, McCulloch also began the march into southwest Missouri for a rendezvous with Price. So the Southern army assembling near Cassville was really composed of three separate small armies: a brigade of Confederate troops under McCulloch, a brigade of Arkansas State troops under Pearce, and the Missouri State Guard under Price.

THE DUG SPRINGS AFFAIR

Through his numerous and faithful scouts and spies, Gen. Lyon was aware of the concentration of the Southern troops at Cassville and of their intention of marching on Springfield. Erroneously believing that the rebel columns would not unite until near Springfield, Lyon determined to march south down the Telegraph or Old Wire Road, with his little army of 5,868 men and three artillery batteries of 18 pieces, in an attempt to defeat the Southern forces in detail before they could combine. But first he sent more messages to Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, the new Federal commander in Missouri, begging for reinforcements. Fremont, preoccupied with his own plans for the defense of the eastern portion of the state, refused. Leaving behind a force of several hundred civilian volunteers and Home Guards to protect Springfield, Lyon began his movement toward Cassville in the afternoon of Aug. 1, camping that night 10 miles southwest of Springfield on the banks of the little stream that would be the scene of a bitter battle a few days later. The

next morning, Aug. 2, Lyon continued his march south down the Wire Road. About 5 p.m., the army halted at Dug Springs, approximately one mile south of present-day Clever, having come upon the Southern army's advance guard consisting of several hundred mounted Missourians commanded by Gen. James Rains. One mile or so further south, a skirmish took place in an oblong valley between Lyon's advance guard of combined arms and Rains' Missourians. In this "Dug Springs Affair," or "Rains' Scare" as Gen. McCulloch called it, both sides sustained a few casualties. Rains' troops were routed and fled southward in a panic to the main Southern army encamped along Crane Creek. McCulloch made derisive remarks about "Rains' Scare" later in his report, and expressed little confidence afterward in the mounted Missourians. The next morning, Aug. 3, the Federals resumed the advance, going as far as Curran Post Office, or McCulla's Store, about on the county line between Stone and Barry counties, and 26 miles from Springfield. At Curran, some three miles from Dug Springs, the Federals encountered a small secessionist patrol, which was scattered by a few artillery rounds. By this time, Lyon apparently became aware that the Southern forces had united, and decided to return to Springfield before he could be outflanked. On the morning of Aug. 4, Lyon's army started back to Springfield, completing the 26-mile march on the afternoon of Aug. 5.

McCULLOCH ASSUMES SOUTHERN COMMAND

Meanwhile, the three Southern forces, after assembling near Cassville, began the march up the Wire Road for Springfield on July 31 with McCulloch's troops in the lead. By the evening of Aug. 1, McCulloch's brigade had reached Crane Creek and gone into camp, with the other two units arriving in the vicinity later. While encamped along Crane Creek, McCulloch was reinforced by the timely arrival of Col. Elkanah Greer's South Kansas-Texas Mounted Regiment.

On the morning of Aug. 4, in a meeting with Price and Pearce, at Price's request, McCulloch reluctantly agreed to assume overall command of the three separate Southern armies and lead the attack on Springfield. Believing that the Federals were still at Curran Post Office, McCulloch issued orders for a surprise attack, and was chagrined to learn that Lyon's army had evacuated its camp about 20 hours earlier and was falling back to Springfield. Nevertheless, McCulloch decided to make a forced march in an effort to overtake Lyon's retreating column. By the time the Southern troops went into camp at Moody's Spring, the general realized that the Federals had escaped. Learning of good camping grounds and corn fields several miles ahead where the Telegraph Road crossed Wilson Creek, McCulloch ordered the march renewed on Aug. 6. After a short march, the Southerners halted and went into camp along both sides of Wilson Creek, which ran generally in a north-south direction.

After two days of fruitless reconnoitering, sometimes by McCulloch personally, to determine the Federal strength and position, Price on Aug. 8 finally received news from two women that Lyon was preparing to evacuate Springfield. An irate Price, impatient with McCulloch's delay, demanded an immediate attack. McCulloch reluctantly agreed, and issued orders for the soldiers to be ready to march on Springfield at 9 p.m., Aug. 9, converging on the city in four columns for a daylight attack on Saturday, Aug. 10. Just as the army was preparing to move, a light rain began falling and McCulloch ordered the troops to lie on their arms but in readiness to move, realizing that a heavy rain would ruin their ammunition, which was none too plentiful.

LYON DIVIDES HIS ARMY AND MARCHES TO ATTACK

When Lyon returned to Springfield from Curran Post Office, most of his troops camped about the city, while others acted as guards to seal off the town and prevent information regarding Federal dispositions from reaching the Confederates. Again advised by Gen. Fremont in St. Louis that no reinforcements would be forthcoming, Lyon consulted with his senior officers whether to abandon Springfield

and retreat to Rolla, the end of the rail line. The majority in the council of war favored falling back to Rolla in view of the overwhelming numbers of enemy troops facing them, and Lyon agreed. But the impetuous one-armed Gen. Sweeny argued for a battle before retreating, and Lyon changed his mind. Lyon then announced that he would attack the Confederates at daylight on Aug. 10, hoping that a surprise attack would negate the Southerners' superior numbers. Col. Franz Sigel persuaded Lyon to allow him to take his brigade on a flanking march around the enemy's rear in an independent attack on the south end of the Confederate encampment. Lyon agreed to this plan for a simultaneous attack on both ends of the camp.

About 6 p.m., Aug. 9, while Sigel's column prepared to march toward the Confederate right and rear, Lyon's column moved out westward along the Little York Road to a point opposite the north end of the rebel camp, where Lyon cut south over the prairie. About 1 a.m., when the Union advance guard approached within sight of the enemy campfires, Lyon ordered the column to halt and rest until daybreak. By now the main body of the column was about 3-1/2 miles northeast of the unsuspecting Confederates. While the men were resting, Lyon's scouts penetrated to within a short distance of the enemy camps and discovered that the Southern pickets had been withdrawn.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMIES

Sigel's Second Brigade also was on the march, moving southwesterly down the Yokermill and Delaware Roads. Sigel's force consisted of the 3rd and 5th Missouri Infantry Regiments and six pieces of artillery of the 1st Battery of Backoff's Missouri Light Artillery Battalion. Lyon also had ordered two mounted companies to accompany Sigel: Company I, 1st U.S. Cavalry, commanded by Capt. E. A. Carr, and Company C, 2nd U.S. Dragoons, under Lt. C. E. Farrand. Sigel's total column numbered about 1,200. Lyon had left behind in Springfield nearly 1,200 Christian and Greene County Home Guards to garrison the city against a surprise Confederate cavalry attack, and with orders to have the wagons and bank deposits loaded for an orderly evacuation if the rebels were not defeated.

Lyon's column was made up of three brigades: the First Brigade, commanded by Maj. S. D. Sturgis, the Third, commanded by Lt. Col. G. L. Andrews, and the Fourth, commanded by Col. G. W. Deitzler. It consisted of: 1st and 2nd Kansas Infantry Regiments; 1st Iowa Infantry; 1st Missouri Infantry Regiment; 2nd Missouri Infantry Battalion; two U.S. Regular Battalions under Capts. J. B. Plummer and Frederick Steele; Co. D, 1st U.S. Cavalry; and Co. I, 2nd Kansas Infantry (Mounted). Lyon's artillery consisted of Co. F, 2nd U.S. Artillery (six guns) under Capt. James Totten and Du Bois' Battery (four guns) under Lt. John Du Bois. This force totaled 4,200.

Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch's Southern army was composed of his own Confederate brigade of Louisiana, Arkansas infantry, and Texas and Arkansas cavalry, totaling 2,720, along with Brig. Gen. N. B. Pearce's Arkansas brigade of infantry and cavalry, together with Woodruff's Artillery Battery (four guns) and Reid's Artillery Battery (four guns), totaling 2,234. The Missouri State Guard, under Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, was divided into five divisions under Maj. Gens. James Rains, M. M. Parsons, J. B. Clark, W. Y. Slack and James McBride, Guibor's Artillery Battery (four guns), and Bledsoe's Artillery Battery (three guns), totaling 5,171. Thus, the total of the Southern army was 10,125, plus about 2,000 unarmed Missouri State Guard following in the rear.

THE BATTLE BEGINS

Lyon's column pressed forward about 1-1/2 miles after the advance guard made contact with the Confederate pickets at dawn. About 5 a.m., the battle began when the Federals drove off the Missourians outposting the ridge to the north of what was to be known soon as "Bloody Hill." As the Missourians retreated south to Bloody Hill, Lyon ordered Plummer and his 1st U.S. Infantry battalion to cross Wilson Creek

and guard the left flank. The 1st Kansas and 1st Missouri composed Lyon's attacking force and charge up Bloody Hill, forcing the Southerners to retreat. The two regiments reached the hill about 6 a.m., with the rest of Lyon's column following closely behind. By this time, Price and McCulloch, who were breakfasting together, were fully alerted, and Price ordered his divisions up Bloody Hill to meet Lyon's attack.

By 5 a.m., Sigel had his artillery battery in position on a plateau to shell the Southerner's cavalry camp, located in Sharp's corn field at the south end of the rebel encampment. The 3rd and 5th Missouri regiments also were poised awaiting Lyon's signal to attack. When Sigel heard the musket fire on Bloody Hill, he ordered his battery to open fire and began his advance, sweeping through the cavalry camp after the Southern cavalrymen had fled from his artillery bombardment. By 7 a.m., Sigel's brigade had crossed Wilson Creek and Terrell Creek, and his troops were deployed in Sharp's corn field in preparation to receive a cavalry attack. His artillery from this second position continued to shell the Southern cavalrymen until about 7:30 a.m., when the troopers fled.

Meanwhile on Bloody Hill, shortly after the battle opened, exchanges of artillery fire took place between Totten's battery and Woodruff's Pulaski Arkansas battery located east of Wilson Creek. Early in the engagement Lyon ordered Capt. Plummer and his U.S. Infantry battalion to cross the creek and guard the left flank. By 7 a.m., Plummer became embroiled in a sharp fight in Ray's corn field with the 3rd Louisiana and the 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles, under Col. James McIntosh. Plummer's small force was soon forced to retreat back across Wilson Creek. Du Bois' Federal battery on Bloody Hill turned its guns on Plummer's pursuers and compelled the Confederates to retreat. The 3rd Louisiana retreated to the southeast, regrouped, marched down the Wire Road, and was ordered by McCulloch to attack Sigel.

SIGEL'S COLUMN DEFEATED

By 8:30 a.m., Sigel had established his third and final position near the Sharp house, blocking the Wire Road. As Sigel waited for Lyon to drive the Southerners back upon him, McCulloch moved down the road toward Sigel's position. Sigel's men saw the gray-clad 3rd Louisiana in the vanguard and held their fire, mistakenly assuming that it was the friendly 1st Iowa from Lyon's column who were also in gray uniforms. The 3rd Louisiana, along with some Missouri State Guard infantry, supported by the fire of Bledsoe's and Reid's Artillery batteries, charged Sigel's position. Sigel's surprised men ran off in a panic in several directions, losing five of their six artillery pieces in the melee. The threat to the rear of Price's troops on Bloody Hill ended with the rout of Sigel.

LYON KILLED ON BLOODY HILL

On Bloody Hill there were charges and countercharges during the early morning hours between Lyon's Federals and Price's Missourians. Lulls and sporadic firing followed each attack. About 9 a.m., Price launched a massive attack all along Lyon's front. The Federals were hard pressed and Lyon was slightly wounded twice while rallying his troops. As some of his units retired to regroup, Lyon ordered the 1st Iowa and the 2nd Kansas to attack, and led the leaderless 1st Iowa into the battle. At this point, about 9:30 a.m., Lyon was killed by a bullet through the heart, although the Iowa and Kansas troops continued to press the assault relentlessly against Price's line which backed down the hill to regroup.

The only cavalry charge of the battle came about 10 a.m., when Col. Elkanah Greer's South Kansas-Texas Mounted Regiment launched an attack against the Union right and rear. The cavalry attack was easily dispersed by musket volleys from several companies of the 2nd Kansas in reserve in the rear and by artillery fire from Totten's battery. By this time, Maj. Samuel Sturgis was informed of Lyon's death

and assumed command of the Union forces, all the senior officers having been wounded and out of action.

THE FEDERALS RETREAT TO SPRINGFIELD

While Price reorganized his troops for another attack, Gen. Pearce was ordered to take his 3rd and 5th Arkansas regiments to reinforce Price. With these additional troops, Price launched the most vicious attack of the day against the Union line. However, the Federal line held firm, aided greatly by the accurate fire from Totten's and Du Bois' batteries. About 11 a.m., Price ordered his troops to disengage and fall back. During the lull that followed and with their ammunition almost exhausted, Maj. Sturgis ordered the Federal forces to slowly retreat back to Springfield. By 11:30 a.m., the Federals had begun an orderly retreat, covered by a rear guard and artillery. Price directed another attack, but as the Southerners advanced over the abandoned Bloody Hill, they saw the last of the retreating Union column disappearing over the next ridge to the north. There was no Confederate pursuit and the bitterly-contested battle was over. However, some Southern cavalry had pursued Sigel's scattered troops and returned with a number of prisoners.

HEAVY CASUALTIES IN A SIGNIFICANT BATTLE

The Battle of Wilson's Creek, or Oak Hills as the Confederates called it, was the first important battle after Bull Run and there was no wholesale running away here. The battle proved that green, volunteer troops could fight bravely and effectively in a cause they deeply believed in. The casualties in relation to the numbers engaged and the time frame (about five hours), were extremely high. The Federals had 1,317 casualties out of 5,400 engaged. Of these, 258 were killed, 873 wounded, and 186 missing or captured. The Confederates reported 1,230 casualties (279 dead and 951 wounded) out of more than 10,200 engaged. The Federals lost 24 percent of their personnel engaged, while the Southerners lost 12 percent. Twenty-five percent of the combatants on Bloody Hill were casualties.

Some historians believe that the battle, although a Union defeat, saved Missouri for the Union, because the victorious Confederates were too battered and disorganized to mount an offensive in Missouri before Federal reinforcements could be rushed to the state. Certainly Wilson's Creek, along with Pea Ridge, is considered to have been one of the two most important battles fought west of the Mississippi River.

THE RETREAT TO ROLLA

The defeated Federals, now commanded temporarily by Sigel, began an orderly withdrawal the next afternoon toward Rolla, accompanied by throngs of Union civilian refugees. The Confederates entered Springfield after its evacuation by the Federals, but made no attempt at pursuit. After remaining in Springfield less than a month, Gens. McCulloch and Pearce returned with their troops to Arkansas. Meanwhile, Price marched his Missouri State Guard north to begin on Sept. 12 a nine-day siege of the 3,000-man Union garrison at Lexington, which surrendered Sept. 20.

FREMONT RELIEVED OF COMMAND

After the death of Lyon, the first Civil War general to fall, and Price's victory at Lexington, much criticism was heaped upon Gen. Fremont. He was forced to take to the field with his personal bodyguard of about 200 under Maj. Zagonyi, and 20,000 regular Union troops. In an effort to keep Price and the Confederates from coming back to Springfield, Fremont marched from Jefferson City to Springfield. The romantic and impatient Maj. Zagonyi received permission to plunge on ahead with his guardsmen, and in a much-publicized charge dashed into Springfield Oct. 25, scattering the small Confederate garrison. Fremont had

hardly settled his large army in Springfield when his critics prevailed and he was relieved of his command. He was replaced by Gen. Samuel Curtis, who would go on to fame and victory over a superior Confederate army at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in early March 1862.

SECESSIONIST HOPES FADE

After the victory at Lexington, secessionist hopes reached their peak in Missouri, but soon faded. Price withdrew to the southwest corner of the state and the deposed Gov. Jackson called part of his deposed pro-Southern legislature together at Neosho. There, at the end of October 1861, the secessionists passed an act delivering Missouri into the Confederacy, and the Confederate government admitted Missouri as its 12th member. But this was meaningless. It was a government in exile, with no troops and no money. The Missouri Confederate government in reality consisted of the governor and his staff, and was harried from place to place in Arkansas, ending the war in Marshall, Texas. Although tortured by guerrilla warfare and periodic Confederate raids, after 1861 Missouri was no longer in danger of being lost to the Union.

SUGGESTED READING:

Bearss, Edwin C. *The Battle of Wilson's Creek* (1975).

Holcombe and Adams. *An Account of the Battle of Wilson's Creek or Oak Hills.* (Centennial Edition, August 10, 1961.)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

OUTLINE OF THE TRAVELLING TRUNK PROGRAM

The Travelling Trunk can be used as a self-contained educational activity or in conjunction with other activities and/or your visit to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Each trunk, whether for the United States Regular soldier or the Missouri State Guard soldier, will have a list of contents which should be checked off against the items in the trunk upon receipt and before return to the park. The list below is provided to give you some idea of the contents of these trunks and as such is more representative than complete. Please feel free to copy any of the printed materials in the trunk, whether primary sources and/or educational activities.

Outline of Contents:

A. Checklist of contents.
B. List of contents with associated descriptions bound in a folder.
C. Clothing: including but not limited to different types of coats, shirts, hats, shoes, etc.
D. Personal items: including but not limited to such items as mirrors, wallets, combs, pipes and tobacco, cards and/or dice, writing materials, cooking and eating utensils, soap, tin cups, candles, toothbrushes, etc.
E. Regularly issued military materials: cartridge and/or cap boxes, dummy rounds of ammunition, bayonet scabbard, haversack with hardtack crackers, parched corn, coffee, canteen, etc.
F. Drill manual (*Hardee's Tactics*), selected excerpts.
G. Primary sources: selected copies of and/or excerpts from letters, diaries, photos, and newspaper articles.
H. Video: depicts a typical soldier from the Civil War period engaged in using many of the items listed above.
I. Educational Activities Packet: we have included these brief activities to facilitate student understanding of the life of a common soldier during the Civil War.

PRE-VISIT OBJECTIVES/MATERIALS NEEDED

Any or all of the following activities may be selected by the teacher as appropriate pre-visit (or whenever they best serve your purposes) lessons for her/his particular class. Teachers may either use their copy/ copies of this packet and/or the EDUCATORS' GUIDE as an instructional tool and/or copy sections from either packet as appropriate for regular class activities.

I. Activity One, Parts One through Three:
Upon completing this activity, the student will be able to:

1. identify and list the major events and situations before and during the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

2. identify and consider those individuals who played significant roles in the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

MATERIALS NEEDED: For historical background, see the enclosed copy of Leo Huff's "The Struggle for Missouri" or Kenneth Elkins's account "The Battle" included in the EDUCATORS' GUIDE. The OFFICIAL MAP AND GUIDE for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, also in the EDUCATORS' GUIDE, may also be useful. Feel free to copy these materials as necessary.

II. Activity Two:
Upon completing this activity, the student will be able to:

1. identify, in correct chronological order, the major events corresponding to the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Use and copy as necessary Huff's "The Struggle for Missouri," Elkins's "The Battle," or the OFFICIAL MAP AND GUIDE.

III. Activity Three:
Upon completing this activity, the student will be able to:

1. identify, list, and discuss some of the possible ways the people of Wilson's Creek, Springfield, and southwest Missouri were affected by troop movements and battles during the Civil War.

MATERIALS NEEDED: In addition to the materials listed above, please see August Klapp's *The Ray House* and Edwin Bearss' *The Battle of Wilson's Creek*, both available at the battlefield.

IV. Activity Four:
Upon completing this activity, the student will be able to:

1. critically analyze primary source documents to determine the course of a historical event.

MATERIALS NEEDED: In addition to the short accounts of the Battle of Wilson's Creek listed above, you will need the excerpts from Colonel Sigel's two reports (included in this packet) on his involvement in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Feel free to make copies as necessary.

Activity One, Part One

Fill-in-the-blank. Please complete the following historical statements by writing the appropriate term in the space provided to the left.

_____ 1. Elected in 1860, . . . was the pro-secessionist governor of Missouri at the beginning of the Civil War.

_____ 2. Early conflicts between the radically pro-Union Captain Nathaniel Lyon and Southern sympathizers took place in the city of. . . .

_____ 3. The first true battle of the Civil War in Missouri took place in . . . on June 17, 1861.

_____ 4. The skirmish at . . . on August 2 not only led Confederate leadership to distrust General Price's Missourians, but also gave General Lyon a false impression of the fighting ability of the Rebel forces in southwest Missouri.

_____ 5. A light rain shower on August 9 kept Southern forces from attacking Lyon's army in the city of . . .

_____ 6. Federal reports referred to the August 10th battle as Wilson's Creek, while the Rebels knew it as the Battle of . . . .

_____ 7. General Lyon was killed while leading Union forces in the area that came to be known as . . . .

_____ 8. During the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the . . . lost a higher percentage of its men engaged in the battle than its opponent.

_____ 9. Technically, Wilson's Creek was a victory for the . . . Army because it held the field at the end of the battle.

_____ 10. The Battle of Wilson's Creek and the Battle of . . . in March, 1862 are generally considered to be the two most important Civil War battles west of the Mississippi River.

HARD TIMES/HARD WAR

Activity One, Part Two

True/False: Please read each statement below carefully. If the entire statement is true, please circle the "T" in the left column. If any part of or the entire statement is false, please circle the "F" in the right column.

T or F 1. By December, 1860, the vast majority of the people of Missouri were violently pro-Confederate and thus eager to secede.

T or F 2. General Lyon's uncompromising attitude and zeal in opposition to Governor Jackson's equally stubborn pro-secessionist stance, not only forced Missourians to take sides but also made bloody civil war a bitter reality in Missouri.

T or F 3. On May 10, 1861, pro-Southern Missouri State Guard forces killed 28 Union sympathizers in St. Louis.

T or F 4. General Lyon decided on a simultaneous, two-sided attack on Confederate forces at Wilson's Creek rather than an immediate retreat to Rolla.

T or F 5. Union forces at the Battle of Wilson's Creek outnumbered Confederate forces by over 2 to 1.

T or F 6. Colonel Sigel's troops were routed when they mistook the gray uniforms of the 3rd Louisiana for those of the friendly 1st Iowa.

T or F 7. The heaviest fighting during the Battle of Wilson's Creek took place in John Ray's cornfield.

T or F 8. Neither Union or Confederate artillery units played a significant role in the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

T or F 9. Lyon was the first Union general to die in combat during the Civil War.

T or F 10. Missouri had both Union and Confederate governments during the Civil War.

Activity One, Part Three

Matching Names: Please match the individuals on the left with their description on the right by placing their associated letters in the appropriate spaces at the far left.

_____ Frank Blair, Jr.	A. Overall commander of Southern forces during the Battle of Wilson's Creek.
_____ Sterling Price	B. Missouri politician and staunch Unionist who supported Lyon's actions in St. Louis.
_____ N.B. Pearce	C. Commander of Arkansas State troops at Wilson's Creek.
_____ Benjamin McCulloch	D. General Lyon's immediate superior, he refused to send reinforcements to southwest Missouri.
_____ Samuel Sturgis	E. A former Missouri governor, he commanded the Missouri State Guard at Wilson's Creek.
_____ John C. Fremont	F. He assumed command of the Union forces at Wilson's Creek after the death of General Lyon.

Activity Two

Instructions: Listed below are some major events that took place in Missouri between February and October 1861. Organize them in their correct chronological sequence from earliest to latest and list them at the bottom of the page.

1. Skirmish at Dug Springs.
2. Siege of Lexington.
3. Missouri admitted as 12th member of the Confederacy.
4. Battle of Wilson's Creek.
5. Lincoln called for volunteers after the fall of Fort Sumter.
6. Battle of Carthage.
7. Blair & Lyon met with Price and Governor Jackson.
8. Battle of Boonville.
9. Camp Jackson Affair and riot in St. Louis in which 28 civilians were killed by Lyon's troops.
10. Missouri Convention voted 89 to 1 to remain in the Union.

The Civil War in Missouri in 1861:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Activity Three

INSTRUCTIONS: Depending upon your class situation, have your students identify and list a given number of ways the people of Wilson's Creek, Springfield, and southwest Missouri were affected by the Civil War.

This activity is intended to provoke thought, therefore there is no one correct answer or answers. A few of the possible ways civilians were affected might include:

1. Loss of crops and/or livestock due to military appropriation.
2. Damage to property from military use, either peaceful or during combat.
   Examples: the use of split rails for firewood and/or the loss of orchards due to gunfire.
3. Interruption of commerce.
4. The loss of loved ones, either by disease or as casualties of war.
5. The dire need for civilians to provide short and long term medical aid for wounded military personnel.
6. Civilian injury and/or death due to military activities.
7. Polarization of popular support for opposing sides due to real, exaggerated, or imagined military injustices.
8. The disruption of local law enforcement with a resultant rise in criminal activities, often thinly veiled as legitimate military actions (i.e., guerrilla activities).
9. The disruption of educational activities.
10. Immediate political chaos with resultant long-term bitterness that would hamper the political process for years to come.
11. Conscription into the armed forces.
12. The need for civilians to provide food, clothing, and other material support to troops in the field as well as taxes.
13. Employment opportunities for civilians, such as work in arsenals and factories, or attached to the armies, such as teamsters and sutlers.
14. War time inflation and the rise in the cost of living, along with war profiteering.
15. Interruption of communications.
16. Restriction on personal freedoms: speech, press, travel, habeas corpus.
17. Displacement of civilians, refugees fleeing advancing armies.
18. The fleeing of slaves in response to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1862.

Activity Four

INSTRUCTIONS: Read carefully the following excerpts, both of which were written by Union Colonel Franz Sigel about his role in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. What discrepancies exist between Sigel's first account, written eight days after the battle, and the second account, written over twenty years later? What might be some possible reasons for these discrepancies? Second, drawing on both these eyewitness accounts, write a short version of Sigel's part in the battle. What precautions should we observe as historians when using such first-hand accounts, or primary sources? Why is it advantageous to have more than one first-hand account of the historical event? Finally, why must historians be careful with accounts written at such different times?

ANSWER KEY: Results will vary on this assignment, but note how Sigel's second account lessens considerably his portion of the blame for the rout of his men. As for precautions, one should always be aware that first-hand accounts can be problematic because of personal biases and/or agendas, the limited perspective of individuals caught up in sweeping historical events, and the frequently dubious nature of human memory. We can, however, by drawing on more than one first-hand account, eliminate inconsistencies and create a more factual narrative of past events.

Eyewitness Account

Excerpt from the report of Colonel Franz Sigel in *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Volume III*, pages 87-88. Report dated August 18, 1861.

"This was the state of affairs at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, when it was reported to me by Dr. Melchior and some of our skirmishers that Lyon's men were coming up the road. Lieutenant Colonel Albert, of the Third, and Colonel Salomon, of the Fifth, notified their regiments not to fire on troops coming in this direction, whilst I cautioned the artillery in the same manner. Our troops in this moment expected with anxiety the approach of our friends, and were waving the flag, raised as a signal to their comrades, when at once two batteries opened their fire against us, one in front, placed on the Fayetteville road, and the other upon the hill on which we had supposed Lyon's forces were in pursuit of the enemy, whilst a strong column of infantry, supposed to be the Iowa regiment, advanced from the Fayetteville road and attacked our right.

It is impossible for me to describe the consternation and frightful confusion which was occasioned by this unfortunate event. The cry, 'They (Lyon's troops) are firing against us,' spread like wildfire through our ranks; the artillerymen, ordered to fire and directed by myself, could hardly be brought forward to serve their pieces; the infantry would not level their arms till it was too late. The enemy arrived within ten paces from the mouth of our cannon, killed the horses, turned the flanks of the infantry, and forced them to retire. The troops were throwing themselves into the bushes and by-roads, retreating as well as they could, followed and attacked incessantly by large bodies of Arkansas and Texas cavalry. In this retreat we lost five cannon, of which three were spiked, and the color of the Third Regiment, the color-bearer having been wounded and his substitute killed. The total loss of the two regiments, the artillery and the pioneers, in killed, wounded, and missing, amounts to 292 men, as will be seen from the respective lists.

In order to understand clearly our actions and our fate, you will allow me to state the following facts:

1st. According to orders, it was the duty of this brigade to attack the enemy in the rear and to cut off his retreat, which order I tried to execute, whatever the consequences may be.

2d. The time of service of the Fifth Regiment Missouri Volunteers had expired before the battle. I had induced them, company by company, not to leave us in the most critical and dangerous moment, and had engaged them for the time of eight days, this term ending on Friday, the 9th, the day before the battle.

3d. The Third Regiment, of which 400 three-months' men had been dismissed, was composed for the greatest part of recruits, who had not seen the enemy before and were only insufficiently drilled.

4th. The men serving the pieces and the drivers consisted of infantry taken from the Third Regiment, and were mostly recruits, who had only a few days' instruction.

5th. About two-thirds of our officers had left us. Some companies had no officers at all; a great pity, but the consequence of the system of the three months service."

Second Account

Excerpt from *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Volume I,* 1887, pages 305-306.

"All these circumstances—the cessation of the firing in Lyon's front, the appearance of the enemy's deserters, and the movement of Reid's artillery and the cavalry toward the south—led us into the belief that the enemy's forces were retreating, and this opinion became stronger by the report of Dr. Melcher. . .that 'Lyon's troops' were coming up the road and that we must not fire. So uncertain was I in regard to the character of the approaching troops, now only a few rods distant, that I did not trust to my own eyes, but sent Corporal Tod, of the 3rd Missouri, forward to challenge them. He challenged as ordered, but was immediately shot and killed. I instantly ordered the artillery and infantry to fire. But it was too late—the artillery fired one or two shots, but the infantry, as though paralyzed, did not fire; the 3d Louisiana, which we had mistaken for the gray-clad 1st Iowa, rushed up to the plateau, while Bledsoe's battery in front and Reid's from the heights on our right flank opened with canister at point-blank against us. As a matter of precaution I had during the last moment brought four of our pieces into battery on the right against the troops on the hill and Reid's battery; but after answering Reid's fire for a few minutes, the horses and drivers of three guns suddenly left their position, and with their caissons galloped down the Fayetteville road, in their tumultuous flight carrying panic into the ranks of the infantry, which turned back in disorder, and at the same time received the fire of the attacking line. . . .

I remained with the right wing, the 3d Missouri, which was considerably scattered. I re-formed the men during their retreat into 4 companies, in all about 250 men, and, turning to the left, into the Fayetteville road, was joined by Captain Carr's company of cavalry. After considering that, by following the left wing toward Little York, we might be cut off from Springfield and not be able to join General Lyon's forces, we followed the Fayetteville road until we reached a road leading north-east toward Springfield. This road we followed. Captain Carr, with his cavalry, was leading; he was instructed to remain in advance, keep his flankers out, and report what might occur in front. . .So we marched, or rather dragged along as fast as the exhausted men could go, until we reached the ford at James Fork of the White River. Carr had already crossed, but his cavalry was not in sight; it had hastened along without waiting for us; a part of the infantry had also passed the creek; the piece and caissons were just crossing, when the rattling of musketry announced the presence of hostile forces on both sides of the creek. They were detachments of Missouri and Texas cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel Major, Captains Mabry and Russell, that lay in ambush, and now pounced upon our jaded and extended column. It was in vain that Lieutenant Colonel Albert and myself tried to rally at least a part of them; they left the road to seek protection, or make good their escape in the woods, and were followed and hunted down by their pursuers. In this chase the greater part of our men were killed, wounded, or made prisoners, among the latter Lieutenant Colonel Albert and my orderly, who were with me in the last moment of the affray. I was not taken, probably because I wore a blue woolen blanket over my uniform and a yellowish slouch-hat, giving me the appearance of a Texas Ranger. I halted on horseback, prepared for defense, in a small strip of corn-field on the west side of the creek, while the hostile cavalrymen swarmed around and several times passed close to me. When we had resumed our way toward the north-east, we were immediately recognized as enemies, and pursued by a few horsemen, whose number increased rapidly. It was a pretty lively race for about six miles, when our pursuers gave up the chase. We reached Springfield at 4:30 in the afternoon, in advance of Sturgis, who with Lyon's troops was retreating from the battle-field, and who arrived at Springfield, as he says, at 5 o'clock. The circumstance of my arrival at the time stated gave rise to the insinuation that I had forsaken my troops after their repulse at Sharp's house, and had delivered them to their fate. Spiced with the accusation of "plunder," this and other falsehoods were repeated before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, and a letter defamatory of me was dispatched to the Secretary of War (dated February 14th, 1862, six months after the battle of Wilson's Creek). I had no knowledge of these calumnies against me until long after the war, when I found them in print.

In support of my statements, I would direct attention to my own reports on the battle and to the Confederate reports, especially to those of Lieutenant Colonel Hyams and Captain Vigilini, of the 3d Louisiana; also to the report of Captain Carr, in which he frankly states that he abandoned me immediately before my column was attacked at the crossing of James Fork, without notifying me of the approach of the enemy's cavalry. I never mentioned this fact, as the subsequent career of General Carr, his cooperation with me during the campaigns of General Fremont, and his behavior in the battle of Pea Ridge vindicated his character and ability as a soldier and commander."

OUTLINE OF THE BATTLEFIELD VISIT

Please note that those activities marked with "*" below are dependent upon staffing. Check with park personnel before including them in your itinerary.

I. Visitor Center

Your trip to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield should begin at the Visitor Center. Its museum displays, programs (a 13-minute film and a 6-minute battle map), hands-on articles, and bookstore take a minimum of 40 minutes to view, and will enhance your understanding of your visit to the the battlefield.

II. Ray House*

Your group will be allowed time to view the inside of the Ray House and ask questions. National Park Service personnel will provide a short presentation that will focus on the pre-war lives of the Ray family, the fighting in the Ray cornfield, the use of the Ray house for medical purposes, and the political and economic effects of the Battle of Wilson's Creek and the Civil War on the Ray family.

III. Living History Demonstration*

National Park Service personnel will present a brief program explaining the use of personal equipment and military uniforms at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, culminating in the loading and firing of a reproduction Civil War musket. Students will also be offered an opportunity to practice Civil War artillery drill (non-firing) utilizing a full-scale artillery piece.

IV. Bloody Hill Tour*

Your group will be led on a walking tour of the Bloody Hill area of the battlefield, scene of the heaviest fighting on August 10, 1861 and the death of Union General Nathaniel Lyon. Your tour leader will discuss the events which took place on Bloody Hill, as well as the tactics and personalities that influenced these events. Please allow at least thirty minutes for this tour.

V. Battlefield Tour

The rest of the tour is self-guided and thus dependent upon the amount of time available to your group. The park brochure and numerous wayside exhibits located on the battlefield provide helpful insights into the events of August 10, 1861. Park rangers will be happy to offer suggestions about ways to expand your exploration of Wilson's Creek.

VI. Miscellaneous

Picnic tables are available near the Visitor Center on a first come, first served basis. Rest rooms and water fountains are available at the Visitor Center. There are no rest rooms or water fountains along the Tour Road. Appropriate clothing and footwear are essential if your group plans to do anything outside the Visitor Center.

Visit Activity

MUSEUM DETECTIVE

Instructions: Have the students play museum detectives while they view the Visitor Center museum displays in order to answer the following questions. Students could do this individually or in teams.

1. What groups did Nathaniel Lyon fight against in his army career before he served in the Civil War?
2. When did General Lyon die?
3. What group in what city purchased a presentation sword for General Lyon in 1861?
4. Who was the first Union general killed in battle during the Civil War?
5. How long did the Battle of Wilson's Creek last?
6. What skirmish on August 2, 1861 preceded Wilson's Creek?
7. How many Union field guns were used during the battle? How many Confederate guns?
8. What was the name of the Federal commander defeated at the Battle of Carthage?
9. When did General Lyon first arrive in Springfield?
10. Where did General Price win a battle in September, 1861 after Wilson's Creek?
11. Where did the pro-Confederacy faction of Missouri's government secede from the Union in October, 1861?
12. Name at least two battles (other than Wilson's Creek) fought in Missouri and the year they took place.
13. What was the name of the pro-Confederacy governor of Missouri who led the Missouri State Guard from Jefferson City to Boonville, and who fought at Carthage?
14. What was loaded in the spherical case shot used in cannons?
15. What crawled over the wounded Henry Martyn Cheavens after his initial medical treatment?
16. Approximately how many men were wounded in the Battle of Wilson's Creek?
17. What did most Missouri State Guardsmen wear as a uniform during the first year of the war?
18. What was the name of the road in front of John Ray's house?
19. Why did the Confederates stop their march on Springfield on the evening of August 9, 1861?
20. When was the bombardment of Fort Sumter?

Answer Key: Activity One

Part One (Fill-in-the-blank):

1. Claiborne Fox Jackson
2. St. Louis
3. Boonville
4. Dug Springs
5. Springfield
6. Oak Hills
7. Bloody Hill
8. Federals or Union
9. Southern or Confederate
10. Pea Ridge, Arkansas

Part Two (True/False):

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. False
8. False
9. True
10. True

Part Three (Matching):

B—Blair
E—Price
C—Pearce
A—McCulloch
F—Sturgis
D—Fremont

Answer Key—Activity Two

The Civil War in Missouri: chronological sequence (with dates).

1. Missouri Convention voted 89 to 1 to remain in the Union (March 9).
2. Lincoln called for volunteers after the fall of Fort Sumter (April 15).
3. Camp Jackson Affair and riot in St. Louis in which 28 civilians were killed by Lyon's troops (May 10).
4. Blair & Lyon met with Price and Governor Jackson (June 11).
5. Battle of Boonville (June 17).
6. Battle of Carthage (July 5).
7. Skirmish at Dug Springs (August 2).
8. Battle of Wilson's Creek (August 10).
9. Siege of Lexington (September 12-20).
10. Missouri admitted as 12th member of the Confederacy (November 28).

MUSEUM DETECTIVE ANSWERS

1. The Seminole Indians in Florida and the Mexican Army during the Mexican War.
2. August 10, 1861.
3. Pro-Union citizens of St. Louis.
4. Nathaniel Lyon.
5. About 6 hours.
6. Dug Springs.
7. 16 Union, 15 Confederate.
8. Franz Sigel.
9. July 13.
10. Lexington.
11. Neosho.
12. Westport (1864), Lexington (1861), Athens (1861), or Fort Davidson (1864).
13. Claiborne Fox Jackson
14. Shrapnel (Iron or lead balls).
15. Maggots.
16. More than 1800.
17. Their everyday clothes.
18. Wire Road.
19. It rained, which would get ammunition wet.
20. April 12, 1861.

Post-visit Activity Five

OBJECTIVE: Upon completing this activity, the student will be able to:

1. recall and respond correctly to factual questions in a short quiz about the events surrounding the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Material for this quiz was drawn from the short histories of this battle written by Huff and Elkins as well as museum displays in the Visitor Center. Many of the answers can also be located in standard Civil War reference materials. Feel free to copy the attached quiz as needed.

INSTRUCTIONS: All or part of the attached quiz may be administered for either regular or extra credit points. You may want to copy the entire quiz or just give part of it orally.

BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK QUIZ

1. For what reasons did the Rebel army camp at Wilson's Creek?

2. When did the Civil War begin and when was the Battle of Wilson's Creek fought?

3. What was the weather like on the day of the Battle of Wilson's Creek?

4. What was the Confederate name for the Battle of Wilson's Creek?

5. Where did the Telegraph, or Wire, Road come from and go to?

6. What was the uniform of the Missouri State Guard?

7. At what time did the Battle of Wilson's Creek start and how long did it last?

8. Who won the Battle of Wilson's Creek?

9. Who buried the dead and took care of the wounded when the fighting was over at Wilson's Creek?

10. Name the four commanding generals who led the troops at the Battle of Wilson's Creek.
    1.)
    2.)
    3.)
    4.)

11. After the Battle of Wilson's Creek was Missouri a Union or Confederate state?

12. Abraham Lincoln was a member of what political party?

13. List four reasons why Missouri was an important state to control for both the Confederacy and the Union? (List several reasons).
    1.)
    2.)
    3.)
    4.)

14. Was Wilson's Creek the biggest Civil War battle in Missouri?

15. Name three "border" states during the Civil War.
    1.)
    2.)
    3.)
    4.)

BONUS QUESTION: Name one of the two Wilson's Creek generals who also led troops at the Battle of Pea Ridge.

QUIZ ANSWER SHEET

1. The Rebel army had marched up the Telegraph Road from Cassville, and by camping at Wilson's Creek they had easy access to water, food (from the Ray, Sharp and other farms) as well as an easier march on the Wire Road to attack Springfield.

2. Officially, the war began April 12, 1861, with the Rebel attack on Fort Sumter, Charleston, South Carolina. Wilson's Creek was fought nearly four months later on August 10, 1861.

3. Very humid with a temperature near 100 degrees Fahrenheit by noon.

4. The Union named battles after nearby bodies of water, while the Confederacy named battles after nearby geographical features or towns. The Southern name for this battle was "Oak Hills."

5. The Telegraph Road ran from St. Louis, where it was originally called the State Road, to Fort Smith, Arkansas. It was the only major road in southwest Missouri in 1861.

6. A trick question—the Missouri State Guard had no uniforms. Due to a lack of money and time, the state did not furnish its soldiers with uniforms.

7. The fighting began at 5:00 A.M. (first light) and continued for over 6 hours.

8. Technically, the Southern troops won, since the Union forces retreated and left the field of battle to the Southerners.

9. The burden of caring for the wounded and burying the dead normally fell on whoever won a battle. The Confederates would spend six days burying all the dead at Wilson's Creek.

10. Nathaniel Lyon, Sterling Price, Ben McCulloch and Nicholas Pearce.

11. Both. Missouri had two state legislatures as well as state representatives and senators in both Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia.

12. Lincoln was a member of the Republican Party.

13. Missouri was strategically located along the vital waterways of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and at the mouth of the Ohio River. It shared common borders with the Union states of Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois, and the Confederate states of Tennessee and Arkansas. The state was also a rich source of agricultural products, minerals, and manpower.

14. No. The largest was the Battle of Westport, fought in late 1864 near Kansas City, involving over 29,000 troops.

15. Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware.

BONUS: Ben McCulloch or Sterling Price.

Post-visit Activity Six

OBJECTIVE: Upon completing all or part of this activity, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to analyze the social, political, economic, and military repercussions and results of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, in either oral or written form.

INSTRUCTIONS: Depending on the time available to you, as well as the grade level, interests, and academic abilities of your students, you may want to pick and choose from the following list of discussion areas and then devote as much time to each as you feel is appropriate. These areas might be covered in classroom discussion or assigned as research projects for individual or group research.

DISCUSSION/RESEARCH AREAS:

1. In what ways might the Battle of Wilson's Creek have affected the inhabitants in the area of Wilson's Creek either before, during, or after the battle? (Focus: Economic, social and political results)

2. Would the inhabitants of Springfield and/or southwest Missouri have been affected any differently than those of the battle area? Why or why not? (Focus: Same as #1 above)

3. Why were so many officers wounded or killed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek and throughout the Civil War? What might have been the possible results of such tremendous losses? (Focus: Military results)

4. Why was the Battle of Wilson's Creek so important during the early part of the Civil War? What might have happened if the Confederate forces would have followed up on their victory at Wilson's Creek in larger numbers? (Focus: Military and political results)

5. Why do civil wars tend to be even more bitter and agonizing than other wars? Draw on examples from the Battle of Wilson's Creek, as well as the balance of the Civil War. (Focus: Social, political, economic, and military aspects and results)

6. Was General Lyon justified in his behavior in Missouri during the period of time before the Battle of Wilson's Creek? How might things have been different if General Lyon had been more diplomatic and willing to compromise? (Focus: Political and military aspects)

7. What can we gain from studying our own Civil War? Could the United States have another civil war? What might be some possible causes and results? (Focus: Political, economic, social and military aspects)

SUGGESTED READINGS

Refer first to the bibliographies of the Battle of Wilson's Creek and Greene County contained within the Educators' Guide. For additional readings please see below.

Boatner, Mark Mayo, III. *The Civil War Dictionary*, Revised Edition. New York: David McKay Co., 1959, 1989. One of the best Civil War reference works.

Brownlee, Richard. *Gray Ghosts of the Confederacy: Guerrilla Warfare in the West*, 1861-65. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1958. A complementary but more general work than Castel's *Quantrill.*

Castel, Albert. *William Clarke Quantrill: His life and times.* New York: Frederick Fell, 1962. Objective work on not only Quantrill but also the guerrilla war in Missouri.

Fellman, Michael. *Inside War: The Guerrilla Conflict in Missouri during the Civil War.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1989. A detailed but very useful study of the guerrilla war.

Ingenthron, Elmo. *Borderland Rebellion.* Branson, MO: The Ozarks Mountaineer, 1980. Book III in the Ozarks Regional History Series, this work extensively covers the war along the Arkansas-Missouri border.

Klapp, August K. *The Ray House.* Springfield, MO: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation, 1987. Brief account of the Ray House and family before, during and after the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Lathem, Frank B. *The Dred Scott Decision, March 6, 1857: Slavery and the Supreme Court's "Self Inflicted Wound."* (Grades 9 and up). Informative account of the pre-Civil War case that helped set the stage for the Civil War.

Linderman, Gerald F. *Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War.* New York: The Free Press, 1987. A work that offers insights not only into what combat was like for the individual during the Civil War, but how their expectations about war were so different from the grim realities of combat, and how they reconciled these differences.

Robertson, James I. *Soldiers Blue and Gray.* New York: Warner Books, 1988. A thorough, updated account of the life of the Civil War common soldier.

Stanley, Caroline Abbot. *Order Number 11, a Tale of the Border.* (Grades 9 and up). Deals with Union efforts to stop Confederate guerrilla raids and their results for civilians along the Missouri-Kansas border.

Wiley, Bell Irvin. *The Life of Billy Yank.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1952, 1994.

_____. *The Life of Johnny Reb.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1943, 1995. Wiley's classic works on the lives of common soldiers during the Civil War are still the standard reference sources and delightful to read.

Comments and Suggestions

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 6424 W. Farm Road 182, Republic, Missouri, 65738, phone (417) 732-2662.

The staff of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield would once again like to thank you and your students for participating in our educational program. Because our major focus is to provide the best possible learning experience for our visitors, whether as individuals or in groups, your assessment of our program will be most helpful. Please take a moment to evaluate each of the phases of our program in the section below and then make any general comments or suggestions in the space provided. We would also appreciate learning about any ideas or activities that you have that effectively convey the Civil War to your students. Your ideas and constructive criticisms will help us improve our educational program and thus benefit your group, as well as many others in the future.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

AREA OF EVALUATION	POOR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT
Initial contact/ Educational Guide	❑	❑	❑	❑
Pre-visit materials	❑	❑	❑	❑
Battlefield visit	❑	❑	❑	❑
Post-visit materials	❑	❑	❑	❑
Travelling Trunk	❑	❑	❑	❑
Video	❑	❑	❑	❑

YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS: _____

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